



Message from AG Rob McKenna:

Washington has some of the strongest sex offender registration and community notification laws in the United States. Our “Two Strikes, You’re Out” law targets serious sex offenders with mandatory life sentences upon a second conviction. As of January 2006, there were 18,963 total registered sex and kidnapping offenders in Washington.

Our state was also the first state in the nation to implement involuntary civil commitment for the most dangerous sexual predators. Under Washington law, once a sex offender is convicted, the offender is sentenced to a minimum sentence in prison. If, at the end of that term, the Parole Board finds that the offender is more likely than not to sexually reoffend if released, the offender can continue to be held in prison. In fact, that offender will be held until such time as the Parole Board finds that he or she is not likely to sexually reoffend upon release. That means some of our worst offenders can be held up to life in prison. There are now roughly 220 offenders at the Special Commitment Center on McNeil Island.

Even with these tough laws, there has been room for improvement. That’s what I learned when my local parks director told me he had no way to prevent a convicted sex offender from hanging out with the children in the locker room of the local pool and no right to ask a convicted sex offender not to play pool with children at the local recreation center.

Working with my office’s Sexually Violent Predator Unit, victims’ advocates, law enforcement and prosecutors, I requested the Legislature pass a bill drafted by my office to give employees at public and private facilities where children congregate the authority to tell convicted child sex offenders to stay away from areas where children are.

This unique approach is the first law of its kind in the nation and it will help keep our communities safer against known sex predators.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob McKenna".

Attorney General



Office of Attorney General
Rob McKenna
1125 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98504-0100
360-753-6200
www.atg.wa.gov

The Danger You Know



Keeping children safe in
our communities

How new laws and vigilant
parents can help

How do I know if a person is a convicted sex offender?

Residents of Spokane can look up registered sex offenders on the Spokane County Sheriff's Office Web site at: <http://scso.spokanesherriff.org>. At this site, you can review a list of level III sex offenders and kidnappers, their photos, age and approximate address. If you live within Spokane city limits, you can type in your address and find out how many level III sex offenders live within a half mile of you or if you live outside city limits in the county, you can view level II and III offenders. Level III offenders are those at the highest risk to reoffend.

What can I do if I know a level II or III sex offender is hanging around children the facility where I work?

SB 6775 says employees, owners or agents of public or private facilities, used primarily to educate, care for or provide recreation opportunities to children may order certain, high-risk sex offenders to leave the premises. Facility personnel must provide offenders with written notice that they must leave the premises. If they don't leave, or if they come back, they will be subject to criminal charges.

Can I be sued if I ask someone to leave?

The law also protects facilities from civil liability for damages arising from ejecting a covered sex offender.

What kinds of sex offenders can be asked to leave the premises?

This law applies to level II or III offenders who are over 18 and who have been convicted of one of the following crimes:

- Rape of a child in the first, second or third degree
- Child molestation in the first, second or third degree
- Indecent liberties against a child under 15
- Sexual misconduct with a minor in the first or second degree
- Incest in the first or second degree
- Luring with sexual motivation
- Possession or distribution of child pornography

- Sexual exploitation of a minor
- Communicating with a minor for immoral purposes
- Patronizing a juvenile prostitute
- Any felonies similar to those listed above
- Any other felony with sexual motivation if the victim was under 16 at the time of the offense
- Any attempt, solicitation or conspiracy to commit any of the crimes above
- Any conviction from another jurisdiction similar to any of the crimes above



What kinds of facilities are covered by this new law?

This law covers any public or private facility whose primary purpose, at any time, is to provide for the education, care or recreation of children, including community and recreation centers, playgrounds, schools, swimming pools and state or municipal parks.

What if I don't know that a person is eligible to be removed from the premises and he or she commits another offense against one of the children at my facility?

The law does not hold a facility civilly liable for failing to eject a covered offender from the facility.

What happens if the offender won't leave or if he or she comes back?

Offenders who receive written notice to leave and remain on the premises or return to the facility at a later date are guilty of a class C felony known as "Criminal Trespass Against Children." Those offenders can receive up to a year in jail and a \$10,000 fine

How can I make sure parents don't fall under a false sense of security?

Parents should always be reminded that the safety of their children is ultimately their responsibility. Parents should know they can alert the facility if they are aware a covered offender is lingering where he or she should not be. Keeping kids and communities safe is a team effort.